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2008 Camelina Crop

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service field office in Helena, Montana once again presents camelina estimates for the state of Montana. Since this is the second year of data collection comparisons are possible to 2007. The intent of this report is to help provide insights into the 2008 camelina crop and provide a basis upon which future historical comparisons can be made.

Crop Development:

The field office collected crop development data for five different stages: planted, emerged, blooming, turning and harvested. Table 1 outlines the general beginning and end of each stage. It should be noted that these are statewide averages and could be different due to specific local conditions.

Table 1: Montana's Camelina Crop Development, 2008.

Stage	Beginning	End
Planted	Early April	Mid May
Emerged	Early April	Mid June
Blooming	Mid May	Early July
Turning	Mid June	Mid August
Harvested	Mid July	Late September

Acreage:

For the 2008 crop year, there were 12,200 acres of camelina planted in Montana of which 9,100 acres were harvested as shown in Table 2. This compares with 22,500 acres planted in 2007 and 20,400 acres harvested in 2007. The largest county planting camelina was Fergus at 1,300 acres followed by Pondera and Teton counties at 1,200 acres. Even though camelina is a dry land crop, a small percentage of Montana's planted acreage was irrigated.

Table 2: Montana's County Level Acreage and Production for Camelina, 2007-2008.

County and District	2007				2008			
	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Lbs/Ac	Production Pounds	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Lbs/Ac	Production Pounds
Flathead	500	500	920	460,000	-	-	-	-
Other Northwest	100	-	-	-	200	200	540	108,000
Northwest	600	500	920	460,000	200	200	540	108,000
Chouteau	2,700	2,500	595	1,488,000	700	700	473	331,100
Hill	800	600	555	333,000	-	-	-	-
Liberty	500	500	544	272,000	-	-	-	-
Pondera	2,100	1,900	662	1,257,000	1,200	1,200	1,581	1,897,200
Teton	700	600	543	326,000	1,200	700	768	537,600
Other North Central	1,500	1,500	500	750,000	1,700	1,500	301	451,100
North Central	8,300	7,600	582	4,426,000	4,800	4,100	785	3,217,000
McCone	1,500	1,500	614	921,000	-	-	-	-
Valley	4,300	4,300	716	3,077,000	-	-	-	-
Other Northeast	2,500	1,500	627	940,000	1,800	1,600	238	381,500
Northeast	8,300	7,300	676	4,938,000	1,800	1,600	238	381,500
Fergus	1,200	1,200	207	248,000	1,300	400	443	177,200
Other Central	800	800	475	380,000	2,200	1,500	496	744,100
Central	2,000	2,000	314	628,000	3,500	1,900	485	921,300
Southwest	600	400	550	220,000	500	500	508	254,200
Yellowstone	900	900	806	725,000	-	-	-	-
Other South Central	600	500	500	250,000	1,000	400	394	157,500
South Central	1,500	1,400	696	975,000	1,000	400	394	157,500
Southeast	1,200	1,200	458	550,000	400	400	355	142,000
Montana	22,500	20,400	598	12,197,000	12,200	9,100	569	5,181,500

Production:

Statewide production totaled 5,181,500 pounds for 2008 with a state yield of 569 pounds/acre. This is a decrease from last year when production was 12,197,000 pounds and the yield was 598 pounds/acre. Yield reports ranged from about 10 to 2,000 pounds/acre with 60% of the reported production yielding between 400 to 1,000 pounds/acre. No conclusions can be drawn about the effects of irrigation on production since the number of acres under irrigation was limited.

Data were collected from October 15 through the end of December 2008, during which time 6,400 operators responded to the surveys. Data for Camelina were collected in conjunction with small grains, hay, pulse crops oilseeds and livestock data. Crop progress data came from the weekly Crop Weather survey that ran from April through October, 2008. The primary target of the crop progress survey is county extension agents and those individuals that have firsthand knowledge of their respective counties crop conditions.

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